

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-25, and 27-45 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed October 6, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by either one of Kirk et al. (GB 2,316,244) or Crandell, II (USP 6,747,246). The Examiner next rejected claims 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blankenship et al. (USP 6,552,303). Claims 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blankenship et al. as applied to claims 41 and 42, and further in view of Blankenship (USP 6,331,694).

Claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-25, 27-34, and 36-40 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Such indication is appreciated.

Applicant has elected to cancel non-allowed claims 35 and 41-45, without prejudice to represent in a continuation. As all remaining rejected claims have been canceled, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-25, 27-34, and 36-40.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kevin R. Rosin/

¹ Kevin R. Rosin
Registration No. 55,584
Phone 262-376-5170 ext. 15
krr@zpspatents.com

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Attorney Docket No.: ITW7510.057
P.O. ADDRESS:
Ziolkowski Patent Solutions Group, SC
136 South Wisconsin Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
262-268-8100

¹The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by credit card authorization being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Please consider this a general authorization to charge any fee that is due in this case, if not otherwise timely paid, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623.